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May 13, 1955

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. H. S. Craig
FROM: Roy P. McNair
SUBJECT: Evaluation of Afro-Asian Conference

In looking back over the business of the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung considerable pleasure should be gained from the excellent manner in which various U. S. agencies performed in the field. U.S. officials accredited to certain countries sending delegates to the Conference were successful in "selling" the American viewpoint, and they provided delegates with vital statistics and intelligence concerning the Communist conspiracy. In addition, the extent to which Embassy officials in Bandung went to be helpful without being obtrusive was commendable. The result of these efforts was that Communist Colonialism came in for some rather sharp criticism at the Conference.

There is another aspect of the Conference, however, of which we should be mindful. It is said that Chou En-lai was by far the most impressive personality at the Conference. This is understandable for he has charmed both Chinese and Americans for almost three decades and most of the delegates at this Conference were undergoing their first exposure to his adroit tactics. In his usual disarming manner Chou in his speeches admitted to being both a Communist and an atheist. He developed the racial theme, and with hammering repetition he made it appear that cultural and economic ties among Afro-Asian countries were more overriding considerations than the menace of Communism. He espoused the cause of "peace" and to many of the delegates he seemed magnanimous when he offered to meet with the U. S. Government to discuss the Formosa issue and ^{devise} a method of "lessening world tensions". And as a clincher, he extended an open invitation to those who cared to visit China and see for themselves the "peaceful intentions" of a "new China".

This attitude on the part of Chou En-lai paid dividends, for many of the leading delegates at the Conference have agreed to accept this invitation to China, although it will involve the red carpet treatment. Mohammed Ali of Pakistan turned out to be our greatest disappointment when he stated that he would be the first to go.

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Nasser of Egypt, Kotelawala of Ceylon will follow with many others. The tours will be supervised as all others have been, and in all probability these individuals will return from Communist China brain-rinsed and parroting the latest Communist line. During this period Krishna Menon of India will reside in Peiping as a "political broker", and U Mu, one of Peiping's most effective apologists will make a State visit to Washington. These developments should influence us to take a cold and sober look at Peiping's current "peace offensive", for it involves Formosa, an area where we have said we will fight if the chips are down.